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公主貴族

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What's Your Gender, Princess - Chapter 01-11

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Chapter 1

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【1】

It was right at midnight that I infiltrated West Yang Country's imperial palace. Moonless with high winds, it was the best time to commit a crime.

And the person I'm going to assassinate was West Yang Country's young Crown Prince, Prince Wumin.

When I was young, I was taught martial arts from Master. At that time, they told me: Little Princess, you are learning all this to strengthen your body, and also so you can protect yourself. With the constant wars during these years, West Yang Country's Emperor was eyeing East Yuan Country covetously, and the emperor's also... In short, if something were to happen, even you would not have the power to resist it.

Back when I was studying the [Three Character Classics](#) and the [Analytic Dictionary of Characters](#), I learned really slowly. As a result, my royal father firmly believed that I was girl who was a bit mentally retarded so he wasn't really interested in my entire learning process. Who could've imagined that I wasn't book learning material and was instead fighting material. From when I began doing the first crouching stance, I could wield all kinds of weapons. It only took a short ten years for me to do that.

In the past, I've read a folktale. The swordsman there said: "I started learning the sword at the age of seven, and it took seven years to master it. To this day, I have not yet come across a worthy opponent." At that time, I felt that it was really cool, and would never have thought that there would be a day I would reach that sort of realm. I started learning martial arts at the age of six, and it took me ten years to master it. Inside the huge imperial palace, I have also not been defeated before.

In regards to my great martial arts, my royal father was at first ecstatic, but

after he started learning how to cultivate immortality with a Taoist priest, he gradually became suspicious. The Taoist priest was one of the Empress's people and had always been unhappy about my, this lady's birth so much that he'll intentionally or otherwise bring up me having good martial arts as a sort of reincarnation of a calamity, and said that every wrong disaster over the past couple of years were all linked to me.

Just because of this "calamity reincarnation", my royal father had an idea. It just so happened that I was already accustomed to his many ideas that I didn't feel like I suffered much. I only could not use martial arts, especially inside the imperial palace.

Thus, West Yang Country was always greatly ambitious, and this had not change in the slightest even when I, the calamity reincarnation was there. The emperor was addicted to practicing the technique to immortality, the empress was playing with politics, the chancellors were drowning in carnal and luxurious pleasures, and the common people who complained about it were not East Yuan Country's match. Millions of troops had always arrive each winter season along with the northwest wind and mightily plundered into East Yuan Country.

They were about to quickly break into Willow City. Willow City was in East Yuan Country's southwest, with verdant hills and clear water. The soil there was fertile, and the best food that we eat everyday had always been continuously transported here from Willow City. The clothes and jewelry that we wore, were also mostly made by the cloth there and were crafted by Willow City's women.

Willow City was outside of East Yuan Country's walls — Cloud City was not too far away. Seeing that they were being loud with their behavior, in at most a month, and at least half a month, they would come over attacking.

Due to the various medications he took all year round, the emperor's health had long since been no good. After he heard about news of West Yang Country's invasion into Willow City, he momentarily could not gather his spirit to react, as if he had given up already. The empress, who wanted my younger royal brother to hastily succeed the throne — actually, she ought to be called the Empress Dowager who ruled from behind the scenes, even she had no good method to hold back West Yang Country's army.

The one who lead West Yang Country's troops was Crown Prince, Prince Wumin. This name was horribly thought up, because it lead to him being devoid of humanity and having no mercy at all for his opponents.
(TL: That's exactly what his name meant.)

After breaking through Willow City, the news about Prince Wumin leading the troops had begun to spread. The palace eunuchs were always flustered and nervous when they talk about him, saying that he stood at the top, considered himself to be unmatched in the world, and had indistinct facial features when he said this in a calm voice: "People of East Yuan Country, those who surrender won't be killed. Those who don't, no matter if it's woman or child, death on the spot."

Later, when he received news of my royal father being short-lived due to his practicing of immortality, he actually jokingly recited poetry: "Having an unrequited love for immortality, does not make one have a long life."

With just these two, short sentences, members of East Yuan Country's imperial household could not raise their heads. In regards to this, I was somewhat helpless, but I was not hurt about it. As for East Yuan Country, I didn't really have any particular feelings for it, nor did I feel anything for my royal father. The only impression I had of him was only when he casually ordered my mother to commit suicide when I was a child, and then tossed me at an unfavored concubine to foster. After that concubine died from an illness, he never bothered with me anymore.

But East Yuan Country's common people needed saving. Even those who surrendered, would be killed — Even though East Yuan Country's imperial family was cowardly and incompetent, its people were courageous. Back when West Yang Country's army first attacked, they were attacked by the people's own spontaneously made volunteer protection squads. As such, West Yang Country's soldiers hated our unarmed and defenseless commoners to the core, and recklessly killed at will.

West Yang Country's soldiers were close at hand, but since East Yuan Country's imperial family still existed and had not surrendered nor been wiped out, it wouldn't be regarded as defeating the country. But this situation would also not last long.

Up until a few days ago, the aged Empress Dowager called for me, and asked: “Princess Changyi. Do you hate me and your royal father?”

“My royal father and mother brought me up, so I have no hatred.” I replied honestly.

“But you have no affection for us, right?” She laughed helplessly, “I never thought that this day would come...”

She kneeled in front of me.

I didn’t really panic or anything, because I knew why she had knelt down. When comparing the price, her kneeling down wasn’t much.

She said: “Princess Changyi, there are few whose martial arts could match yours within East Yuan. I hope you could use that strength to kill Prince Wumin, and avenge your royal father, as well as this country...”

I promised her. Even though I don’t feel anything for them, I am still East Yuan Country’s princess. In my sixteen years of existence, I wasn’t actually brought up by my royal father, but was instead nurtured by East Yuan Country’s common people. The rice I ate, came from the country’s farmers. The silk I wore, came from the weaving girls in the clothing stores. The palace I lived in, came from countless people’s blood, sweat, and tears.

Aside from my martial skills, I didn’t really have any other abilities. If tossed into the common folk, I fear that my life would be extremely miserable. That being the case, although I was not pampered nor favored, I lived pretty well. All of that came from East Yuan Country people’s taxes.

So I will use the only thing I’m good at — martial arts, to repay the people of East Yuan Country.

And I knew that this time, I would not come out alive.

Prince Wumin had already returned to West Yang Country at this time, because West Yang Country’s emperor was terminally ill. As the only crown prince, and a young general who had great accomplishments, Prince Wumin would naturally replace the emperor with no second candidate. Besides, with

East Yuan Country's internal turmoil, there was already no need for him to personally lead his troops.

To him, standing by and waiting for the Western Emperor to breathe his last, was the most important thing to do.

After going through so many days of preparation, I knew that Prince Wumin lived in Heaven Palming Palace. Just seeing the name, one could know how insufferably arrogant this person was. Heaven Palming Palace, he actually wanted to grasp the boundless heavens in the palm of his hands.

I carefully pried open a roof tile. The sound was really light, and no one had detected it. Within the huge Heaven Palming Palace's field of darkness, I listened attentively, and heard the subtle yet orderly sounds of breathing. It ought to be Prince Wumin, who had already fallen asleep. If he were awake, his breathing would be a bit more chaotic.

I quickly flew down and knocked the few imperial bodyguards unconscious before they had time to react. The situation had advanced smoothly without a hitch, as per my expectations. I opened the door and rapidly entered, taking light, noiseless, measured steps. Then, I approached Prince Wumin's bed.

In the darkness, it was impossible to see anything with sight. I could only vaguely sense that a tall, male figure was laying on the bed. Taking out a dagger, I stabbed downwards, and the person who ought to have been asleep flipped over during this situation of life and death. I used too much strength, and the dagger was also extremely sharp, so when he escaped, the dagger had already thrust straight into the bed, and was temporarily immobilized.

In the time that I'd tried to pull out the dagger, that person had already nimbly risen and was already ruthlessly swinging his hands at me, as if they were a blade. I bent my body to evade it and was sensed an large amount of wind pass by my ear. Prince Wumin's fast moves were outside of my expectations.

I was unable to pull out the dagger and was forced to abandon it. In the darkness, the two people began. Although I had never met someone my match, Prince Wumin was the first person worthy of being my opponent.

He was flexible and nimble, without any of the slow and sluggish manner that a person who had just woken up ought to be like. Moreover, he was powerful but

not stupid. In the darkness, just by relying on sound, unexpectedly, he could still accurately attack my vital points. Ever since I infiltrated the palace, my physical endurance was already diminished. Little by little, I was gradually falling into a disadvantage.

Whatever, if I couldn't avenge my country, then I'll just sacrifice my life for it.

I felt somewhat helpless.

That was what I thought, but survival instincts still made me struggle to fight him, until at last, he revealed an opening. At once, I extended a leg to hinder him, and Prince Wumin fell immediately, but he clutched at the ends of my clothes while doing so. We fell on the floor together, but what's even more unfortunate was that we both hit the ground head-first.

When I awakened, the sky was already slightly bright. I suffered an extreme headache and was puzzled. Why would I still feel such a feeling like "pain" when I had already died?

Rather, when I opened my eyes, I stared blankly, because I actually saw "myself", still wearing the night robes, staring at me with an extremely ugly expression. "My" head also had a tiny trail of blood coming from "my" head, probably from banging onto the floor last night.

This...

I slightly lowered my head, and discovered that I was actually wearing West Yang Country Crown Prince's clothes. A dark black robe with wide sleeves, cuffs and collar both had a rolling cloud design. It was low-key and dignified.

I looked at my hands and feet. They were white, long, and thin, with calluses that were made from long periods of weapon wielding all year round. They were a man's limbs.

I stared blankly at "myself", and could not say anything aloud for a long period of time.

I, East Yuan Country's Princess Changyi, had actually exchanged bodies with my enemy country's crown prince...

Chapter 2

【2】

After being astonished, the “me” in front of me expressionlessly extracted out the dagger that was originally stuck in the bed, stared at the word on the dagger, and said: “Yun? Heeh, East Yuan Country’s royal name — you are a member of the East Yuan imperial family, and even know martial arts. Ohh, could you be Princess Changyi?”

I stared blankly, and asked: “How did you know that?”

Frankly speaking, seeing your own face say something to you while using a peculiar intonation, now that was a complicated feeling. It was like looking into your reflection in the water, and then a rock hits the water, forming a circular greenish blue ripple that made you look weird and indistinct.

“Changyi is an expert in martial arts, and has also has great courage...” The other party fiddled with the dagger while saying a few words officials say to praise me.

They sound pretty nice, but were in fact pretty stereotypical and repetitive. My royal sisters were all “XX Princess has a gentle and kind nature, an elite women who excelled in painting and calligraphy, is a great musician...” and so on. But I was not gentle or kind, I was at most plainspoken. I was not an elite woman who excelled in painting and calligraphy, nor could I play an instrument. As a result, officials had no other choice but to reluctantly talk about my martial arts, as proof that I wasn’t someone who could not do anything...

“And I even know that your name is Jiao. Ah, good name, a clear moonlight...” He said casually.

“You are Prince Wumin?” I interrupted him.

He nodded: “Yes.”

Without saying another word, I charged forward and seized the dagger away from his hands. He actually did not dodge or hide, and allowed me to take the dagger.

Even though it was strange, I still pressed the dagger on his neck... or should I say, my neck.

Prince Wumin laughed: "You want to suicide?"

I coldly answered: "I might as well take you down with me."

"Then have you ever thought that, if your body dies, what if my soul returns to my body after having no place else to go? If that happens, you'll die, but I'll be safe and sound... hrm?"

"..." I rigidly clutched the dagger in my hand, "Is that even possible?"

"What do you think?" He was calm and composed, and made a cheap smile with my face, "Since even exchanging bodies is possible, I don't believe that there is anything in this world that is impossible."

In fact, I also felt that way too...

I slowly withdrew the dagger. Then, I pressed it against my neck: "Then I might as well just suicide. When your body dies, your soul wouldn't be able to return."

Prince Wumin raised his eyebrows: "You are quite resolute. East Yuan Country, a country meeting its final days, is it worthy of you doing this?"

"If it wasn't for you indulging your soldiers to willfully massacre the people in territories you conquered, I wouldn't have come to assassinate you."

Prince Wumin pondered for a while, and then said: "If you suicide, I indeed cannot return. But don't forget, even though I am currently in your body, my handwriting is still the same — If you die, I will fake a blood letter, saying that it is someone from the East Yuan Country who killed me, and make West Yang Country's soldiers avenge me — once they attack East Yuan Country's walls, they would immediately massacre the entire city, whether or not they surrender."

That was my voice, my tongue, that was controlled by Prince Wumin to spout such malicious words. I grew infuriated: "You seriously have no face!"

“It’s your face anyway.” He said with a chuckle.

“...”

I kind of felt like recklessly throwing everything aside and taking him down with me...

In the next instant, Prince Wumin withdrew his smiling expression and said seriously: “Princess Changyi, no matter what, the current us cannot fighting with each other. Rather, we ought to cooperate — my royal father is critically ill, and my royal uncle, the King of Xiuyi is eyeing the throne. Even though I had confidence in myself, now that this sort of thing happened, if he seized the throne, then East Yuan Country’s people will definitely be helpless.”

“Then what should we do?”

“I will marry you.”

Prince Wumin looked at me, and said with a slight laugh: “Or should I say — You will marry me.”

“.....” This was the first time in my whole life that I felt like I had been struck by lightning. From the top of my head, straight to my neck I hurt all over...

“When Princess Changyi came to West Yang Country, she accidentally met West Yang Country’s Crown Prince, Prince Wumin. It was love at first sight for the two, at second sight, they fell in love again and on the third time, they determined their life together. Prince Wumin wants a beauty instead of a country, and willingly gives up the easily obtainable East Yuan Country.” Prince Wumin said a few long sentences as if he was repeating it from a book, “Princess Changyi, do you think this story is believable enough to convince the people?”

I answered really slowly: “This will depend on Princess Changyi’s appearance...”

Prince Wumin acknowledged that with a nod of his head. Then, he turned around, rigidly walked a few awkward steps, and looked at himself with the copper mirror.

Then, the copper mirror dropped to the ground.

He turned his head around, and lamented at me: “Princess Changyi, you look way too ordinary... without the slightest good looks of a woman that could ruin

countries.”

I picked up the copper mirror and regretfully said: “I’m sorry that I look so ugly...”

Actually, in regards to my own looks, I never really thought much about it. But compared with those flowery and moon-like royal sisters of mine, I knew that I fell short of their beauty by a lot. Moreover, I never dress up before, and always presented myself without makeup. My clothes were also plain and simple. As long as they fit me, were snug, and allowed me to practice martial arts, they were fine. As for jewelry, I even more so, have never worn them before. Because the clanking sounds would completely expose my whereabouts.

I held of the copper mirror and took a look at myself. I almost scared myself to death, inside the mirror was a man with skin like jade, with phoenix eyes and sharp eyebrows. Even though there was a bloodstain on the forehead, it did not affect his appearance in the slightest. The black robe contrasting against his skin made him seem surreal. I couldn’t help but sigh “Prince Wumin, you, though, have a beauty that could ruin countries...”

Prince Wumin seized the copper mirror with a dark face: “If you say another word, we’ll just go die together then.”

“...”

“Whatever. With thirty percent looks and seventy percent make up, even if you look ordinary, you’re still not that ugly. If you dress up, at least you’ll be worthy of being looked at.” Prince Wumin sighed, “In short, we can’t be like this. I have to see my royal father in a while. Go call for someone to come in to freshen ourselves up.”

I nodded: “But, but, we have a greater problem at hand.”

Prince Wumin’s complexion did not look too good: “I know what you want to say, because I’m like that too.”

After daybreak, there would inevitably be dirty sediments of something inside the body waiting to be released. At present, we were exactly faced with this problem.

He thought for a moment and said: “I’m still alright, I promise to not look.”

I said: "I also promise to not look."

Prince Wumin shook his head: "Do you want to... use the front or the rear?"

I felt a bit embarrassed: "The front."

"When a man uses the toilet, he must stand." He explained, "Furthermore, he must aim, and must use his hand to support..."

I stared blankly for a long time before suddenly shaking my head: "I don't want to support! I'll, I'll just crouch to do it..."

Prince Wumin said awkwardly: "But, it will sprinkle out."

I said angrily: "Why are you men so vulgar!"

Prince Wumin had a face of innocence: "What vulgar... how about this, you can close your eyes, and I'll help you support..."

I drew out the corners of my mouth: "Then I'll be dirtying my own body's hand..."

Prince Wumin got annoyed: "Then what do you say we do?!"

I hesitated for a long time, and finally thought of a method... which is to get a rope and put it under that place, then use both hands on either side of the rope to lift it up. That should also be counted as supporting it...

In the end, we both agreed to this method. Only, I didn't understand why there was a little bit of killing intent being released from Prince Wumin's body...

Chapter 3

【3】

After relieving ourselves, we decided to take a bath. Prince Wumin taught me his normal manner of speaking and his posture. I more or less got it. Then, he hid in the back while I called a palace maid to prepare some water for the basin.

The so-called basin was exactly a place where you took a bath, and you had to prepare hot water, flower petals, and so on. Even though it felt a bit luxurious to me, Prince Wumin actually did not find it too odd. I assume he had already grown accustomed to it.

Prince Wumin's palace maids were all of extraordinary quality. When they saw the blood on my head and my disheveled clothing, they didn't dare to stare at it more. It must be because Prince Wumin was usually this nutty, and that no matter what kind of weird things he did, no one would dare say anything.

Only when everything was prepared, did I realize a frightening problem — how were we going to bathe?

We can't be helping ourselves bathe, right...?

After I dismissed all the palace maids and told Prince Wumin to come out, he asked with suspicious: "What's wrong?"

I said with difficulty: "How... are we going to bathe?"

"Oh... you're saying..." He lowered his head, and looked at "my" body, "Rest assured, I won't do anything bad to your body — Truthfully speaking, Princess Changyi, how old are you this year? Why do I feel that your upper body is no different than mine..."

I gnashed my teeth: "Pervert!"

I thought about it, then I also lowered my head to his body, and said: "Prince Wumin, actually, I also think that there is no difference between our lower bodies..."

Prince Wumin actually laughed instead of getting angry: "If there's a difference, you have the chance to find out."

"..."

Being immoral also required a certain eloquence and skill. Even though it was obvious that I could not best him...

I said: "Th-there's so many intimate places, how could I shamelessly touch them? I'm not willing to touch your things, but if you touch mine, I would lose my future innocence..."

Prince Wumin knitted his brows: "You're going to marry me, why would you need something like innocence?"

"..."

"How about this," Prince Wumin said, "You help me bathe, and I'll help you bathe."

"...You're too shameless!"

"What's wrong with you now!"

"Isn't this still you touching me and me touching you?"

"...You're such a troublesome woman, why do you have so many problems with so many things!"

Prince Wumin angrily said while using my face. My face even puffed up. Even though he pretended to be cute using my face, I seriously wanted to slap him with the palm of my hand, but I was incapable of doing so.

I said patiently: "No matter what happens, I just don't want..."

Prince Wumin sighed: "Since that's the case, you can let the palace maids come in to help. But if this happens, then help me fabricate my identity. Hrm, just say that I was a palace maid you came across last night."

I looked at him with hatred: "So casual, looks like you also did not dally that little."

Prince Wumin shot me a cheap smile but did not speak.

Since we agreed on it, I allowed Prince Wumin to undress first and enter the

basin while constantly telling him to not open his eyes. Prince Wumin followed my instructions and said: “I said it before, there’s no difference in our upper bodies. Seeing your body is no different than seeing my own in the mirror after I return back to my body.”

“ ... ”

I feel like pushing his head under the water...

Then, I also took off my clothes, and allowed the palace maids to enter. During this course of events, I also had my eyes practically closed. Even if they weren’t closed, I definitely wouldn’t look down.

After a few palace maids entered and saw Prince Wumin, they were somewhat shocked, but they still did not dare to speak due to the pressure of his long term abuse of authority. I indifferently instructed: “Help me and her wash our bodies.”

Prince Wumin and I occupied the large basin’s southeast corner and northwest corner. With our backs to each other, this must seem a bit weird because the few palace maids’ expressions all became quite hilarious. But they still lowered their heads and helped me bathe.

I’m not really used to being attended to, and felt that it was really weird. Honestly, I was worried that the pervert would open his eyes and peep at my body. Even if I did indeed do not have anything good to look at, I was still a bit worried...”

Who knew that an even bigger problem would come.

The few palace maids used a towel to help me wipe my body, and even skillfully washed the thing linked to the body. Even though I felt really uncomfortable, after I saw how naturally they did that, I was certain that Prince Wumin had been attended to like this before. Thus, I had no choice but to accept this. Not long after, that male region gradually began to react...

Inside the basin’s mist and delicate aroma, I was originally a bit faint. After sensing that place’s reaction, I felt all the blood in my body flush to my face. I yelled out loud, grabbed a white towel on the side and hit it — God knows that it was my subconscious action, and at that time, I only thought that the thing

represented the perverted Prince Wumin. As a result, I hit it without hesitation...

Who knew that that place was that weak...

After hitting it, I was the one who suffered the pain. A violent pain extended outwards, and I didn't even have the strength to say anything. I could only curl up and cringe. Not knowing what to do, the few palace maids withdrew with dumbstruck expressions. What was even more horrible was that the experienced Prince Wumin on the side immediately dashed over. Being inside the water was like standing on level ground. He used my girl voice to yell: "Yun Jiao, what did you do?!"

Fine, yell all you want, you even grabbed my arm and pulled my body over. Just lower your head and check the condition of the injury...

I felt that he was unexpectedly touching it carefully...

Ah, my hand.....

I wanted to kick him off, but I had no energy due to the pain in that area. On the other hand, that was my body, so I could not kick it.

The few palace maids on the side had long since turned pale in fright. The me, who was in a difficult position due to the extremely acute injury could still feebly say: "All of you, leave now..."

The few palace maids hurriedly left in haste.

After I slowly turned around with difficulty, I saw Prince Wumin facing me with crossed legs: "You crazy woman, your hand is too fierce! You actually hate me enough to want to snap off my bloodline...!"

I wanted to cry, but I had no tears: "Wear something first..."

Prince Wumin stared blankly and subconsciously looked down. I didn't care any more and slapped him with my palm: "Pervert, you're not allowed to lower your head!"

Then I saw a little lump slowly swell on my own face...

Prince Wumin let out a painful breath, but he still did not lower his head. He gritted his teeth and said: "Woman, you are just too crazy. Regardless of whether you are against yourself or your enemy, you show no mercy..."

Only after I finished hitting, did I experience heartache. Seeing that it was my own face, I said in a hurt voice: “You dare to even talk, who told you move your eyes elsewhere...”

We could only use “both sides suffering” to describe the first time we took a bath... His top hurts, my bottom hurts...

The later generations would call this kind of “both sides suffering”, a pain in the ass.

Chapter 4

【4】

Afterwards, I called in the trembling palace maids to help us wear our clothes, and I was still using a dark, cold, threatening tone of voice towards them based on Prince Wumin's instructions: "What happened earlier?"

The legs of those few palace maids all went limp: "Nothing happened..."

I nod in satisfaction: "You're dismissed. Oh, go to Princess Yangping's and ask for a set of clothes. The more gorgeous it is, the better. Get a more looser one. Then, ask for jewelry, rouge, and stuff like that."

This was obviously also what Prince Wumin told me to say. He said that people relied on clothes. Since we can't bring out a suitably pretty clothes and jewelry in such a short period of time now, we could only use a borrowed one.

I was a bit puzzled: "I recall that you had several sisters, so why did you pick Princess Yangping specifically?"

Prince Wumin said: "Yangping is more simple, she won't ask questions."

"Why do I need a more looser one?"

"She has a great figure, if it's too tight, your body won't be able to support it." Prince Wumin's eyes contained a teasing smiling expression.

Frankly speaking, I really admired this trait of Prince Wumin's. No matter what how big of a situation happened, he would instantly make it alright. Even though I'm not sure if he really didn't care about it, but... just by looking at the expressions he displayed, it really makes one feel puzzled.

I nodded: "Having a big chest but no brain, has been a scientific law since ancient times."

Prince Wumin laughed heartily: "There's so much salt in your words."

I stared at him.

Prince Wumin lazily said: “Having a big chest but no brain, is better than having a small chest and no brain...”

I stared at him again.

Prince Wumin said innocently: “I wasn’t talking about you.”

I couldn’t be bothered to acknowledge him and sat in palace while waiting for the palace maids to deliver Princess Yangping’s clothes. Prince Wumin was currently wearing his own simple white male garments. At this time, the weather had already become cold. He looked a bit cold as he sat there, and after thinking about it for a while, he withdrew back into his blankets.

Well, he’s taking care of my body, so I didn’t have any objections anyway. We just sat in silence like this for a while. Prince Wumin opened his mouth to talk: “Oh right, I still have to teach you what to do when you go to see my royal father. First, when you approach the dragon bed in my royal father’s chambers, your footsteps must be slow. Your body must be trembling, if you can cry, cry out loud. Then, kneel in front of my royal father’s bed, and say ‘My royal father’s illness that hurts him this much, this son is willing to replace him!’ — — Remember, you have to say it in a sobbing tone, and earnestly say it. You have to let the audience feel broken-hearted, and make them shed tears when they hear you...”

I interrupted him: “...how fake.”

Prince Wumin shrugged his shoulders with indifference: “If your royal father dies this fast, and if he had always been in such a half-dead state, you would also be like this.”

I shook my head: “When my royal father died, I never shed a single tear. I don’t feel anything for him, and he doesn’t need me to grieve for him.”

Prince Wumin nodded: “That’s a special exception. You don’t feel anything for your royal father, and he doesn’t need you to grieve for him, but I need to. At the moment, my uncle and I are comparing who has shed the most tears.”

I was somewhat hesitant: “But I can’t cry loudly.”

Prince Wumin thought for a moment, and fished out a sack from under his pillow. There were a few needles inside: “If you really can’t do it, then stab yourself with this.”

“ ... ”

I slowly received the needle: “How about I stab you to death instead?”

“ ... ”

Who knew that before Princess Yangping’s clothes and jewelry had arrived, I would hear a person outside yell out something like Princess Shengan. Prince Wumin’s complexion sank, and explained: “She’s my uncle, the King of Xiuyi’s daughter. She has always been in love with me...”

Once I heard that, I got it right away...

Originally, I thought it would be alright and that she would stand outside and wait a while. Who would’ve imagined that this princess would be so unruly. The whole journey here, she was pushing, shoving, and bumping into things. Without the person outside even getting to announce her arrival, she barged in. At this moment, Prince Wumin and I were face to face with each other, with several needles’ length of space between us. Once I heard the outside noise, I quickly put the needles back under the pillow and was simultaneously knocked away by someone.

As such, for the most part, this princess probably saw that Prince Wumin and I looked pretty close...

She shrieked, and took huge, exaggerated steps forward. She grabbed me: “Dear brother, how could you let this woman lie on your bed?!”

Dear brother? Err, weren’t you guys cousins...

But she still called him dear brother? Err, too scary...

Prince Wumin glanced at me, but didn’t dare to say anything. He quickly closed his eyes and pretended to be weak and delicate.

That Princess Shengan was still noisily pulling at my sleeve: “Dear brother, tell me what happened!”

I said: “Shengan, let go of my sleeve first...”

Princess Shengan shouted in displeasure: “Dear brother, you’ve always called me You’er, why did you just call me Shengan?!”

How should I know, Prince Wumin never told me this before!

I said with a head almost filled with sweat: “Uh, let go of me first...”

“I don’t want to!” Princess Shengan was indeed a serious rebel at heart. She stared at me with wide open eyes. Then she tugged at my sleeve, turned around to look at Prince Wumin, and just happened to meet Prince Wumin’s secretly peeping open eyes. Meeting the murderous look in her eyes, he closed his eyes again in fright... I seriously want to whip him. His transformation was really too fast...

What kind of thing are you? You saw me, but you actually didn’t make the proper courtesy?” Princess Shengan said as she looked down in arrogance, “Don’t think that just because my dear brother doted on you for a night that you’re extraordinary. Let me tell you, you’re nothing!”

Prince Wumin didn’t make a sound.

I didn’t make a sound either.

When Princess Shengan finished speaking, and nobody replied, she probably felt a bit embarrassed, and started yelling again: “Hey, what’s wrong with you? I want you to salute me! Why are you still on my dear brother’s bed?!”

She stopped speaking, and then actually slapped forward.

That’s my face!

I quickly pulled back her hand: “You’er, if you have something to say, say it slowly...”

“You what er? Didn’t you call me Shengan before?!” Princess Shengan turned her head around and got angry at me.

“Err, Shengan,” I took her advice and said, “If you have something to say, say it slowly...”

Prince Wumin suddenly laughed out loud. Baffled, I looked at him and wondered what was so good about him. Immediately afterwards, Princess Shengan fiercely pushed me aside: “Feng Qingyan, you’ve gone too far!”

Feng, was West Yang Country's royal surname. Looks like Prince Wumin's name was Feng Qingyan. No wonder Princess Shengan kept on calling him dear brother...

(TL: Qing, in Chinese, was also an endearment between spouses)

I looked at this Princess Shengan in confusion, and didn't know what I have done to have gone too far.

Prince Wumin had already stifled his laughter, but his body continued to unceasingly shake. It was evident that he was trying his best to endure it. When Princess Shengan saw him like that, she became even more angrier and stepped forward with the intention to push him.

Before I could even stop it in time, Princess Shengan had already stepped on a tile. It was the same tile, the same area where Prince Wumin and I left our bloodstains. We had just tidied it up this morning, so it was still wet. I saw her slip underfoot, and her entire person flew over. Prince Wumin quickly dodged to the side, and his clothes had also accidentally moved the pillow as well. Thus, Princess Shengan's entire person perfectly fell on the spot where I concealed the needles...

After that, when Prince Wumin and I no longer heard any sounds of movements from after Princess Shengan fell over, I looked, and saw that both her eyes were tightly closed. Her forehead was brightly lit, filled with several long needles...

So horrifying, so scary, nice skills...

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alyschu: Nobility back then mostly were known by their titles. Prince Wumin's real name is Feng Qingyan, whereas Princess Changyi's name is Yun Jiao. It's a pain to translate their titles into English because they're so profound and would end up sounding long-winded so I didn't. They usually go by their titles and were referred to by their titles so I didn't want to translate their titles and make them sound too long and awkward.

Chapter 5

【5】

I was a bit afraid when I held out a hand under her nose... and discovered that she wasn't breathing.

I looked at Prince Wumin stiffly: "What do we do, she's not breathing..."

Prince Wumin wasn't nervous at all. He tested for her pulse, and said: "Rest assured, she's not dead. Her acupuncture point had probably been stabbed into, making her enter a sleeping state."

I let out a huge breath of relief: "That's great."

Prince Wumin knitted his eyebrows: "What's great? I bet everyone knows that she's here with us right now, so I have to be revealed in front of everyone. Also, even though she's not dead now, she's still not in a good condition. My uncle loves his daughter as if she's his life, seriously..."

Hearing him say that, I couldn't help but say: "You're actually a hundred times more patient when it comes to her."

Prince Wumin said: "She likes me, and this a great way for me to control my uncle."

I said: "Then you're going to marry her and make her an Empress in the future?"

Prince Wumin looked at me with a slight sneer: "You think that after I ascend the throne, I'd let my uncle stay by my side, like a ticking bomb waiting to explode?"

"...No."

"Then do you think that after I get rid of him, I would be at peace knowing that I have his daughter by my side, like a ticking bomb waiting to explode?"

“...No.”

“That’s exactly right.” He calmly stated, “At the moment, I’m only faking that I like her, so my uncle wouldn’t do anything to me because of Princess Shengan. I’ll get rid of all of their people afterwards.”

His current vicious and merciless manner made me vaguely recall that day on that platform, the man who was in charge of voicing the executions.

In these short hours of interaction, in the midst of the noisy turmoil, I nearly forgot that Prince Wumin was that type of person.

When I suddenly recalled that, I was fully frightened.

I asked cautiously: “By your side, why is it all bombs...”

“...” Prince Wumin looked at me with a complex expression, “I think you’re missing the point here...”

I explained: “No, I was just thinking that in your mind, I’m probably a bomb too.”

Prince Wumin pursed his lips into a smile: “Don’t worry, even if it is, it’s also linked to me — — our current situation, is like a double bomb...”

“...”

After Prince Wumin carefully extracted the silver needles out of Princess Shengan’s head, he allowed me to call for people to come in, telling me to say that Princess Shengan accidentally hit her head, fainted, and to bring her back home.

Princess Yangping’s clothes and other items had arrived just in time. I took a look, and saw gold light flickering from its gold lotus borders. It was indeed gorgeous and not at all gaudy. The craftsmanship was fine and meticulous with little precious pearls. With just a look, there were no less than a thousand pearls, and each one was properly embroidered. There was not a slanted one in sight, and not even the connecting lines could be seen, which goes to show that it had been carefully made to be luxurious.

I looked at the head ornaments, and they were all the dangling kind, gold hairpins with tassels. If they were to all be worn, I believe that half the face

would be covered. There was an especially large tasseled one, and when I helped Prince Wumin put it on, I said: “If you can’t see the face, then it wouldn’t matter if you’re ugly or beautiful.”

Prince Wumin didn’t say anything. He only accepted it mutely, and then put it to the back of his head.

“ ... ”

Both Prince Wumin and I didn’t really know how to dress up. In the end, we still had to call for the palace maids to help him out. I’m assuming that the palace maids were already accustomed to today’s strangeness. Even though some of their complexions were as white as paper and were as green as grass, they were no longer trembling, so their help in dressing up wasn’t that bad.

After a series of bustling, the palace maids withdrew and I looked at Prince Wumin: “As expected of thirty percent looks and seventy percent make up, Crown Prince Your Highness, you’re really beautiful like this.”

Prince Wumin sneered: “Yun Jiao, you really have no face, to actually compliment yourself by complimenting me.”

I shot him a smile: “Not like it’s my face.”

“ ... ”

We had finally finished the preparations. We went over what we were going to say and do once we go to visit the Emperor — — In a while, I was going to tell West Yang Country’s Emperor that Prince Wumin, who was currently me, Princess Changyi, came to seek peace. Prince Wumin, who’s currently me, received news that North Chang Country was going to take advantage of West Yang Country attacking East Yuan Country to attack West Yang Country, that was currently fairly empty of military power due to our war. Moreover, West Yang Country has been attacking East Yuan Country for a long time without any success. Soldiers were growing weary of the war — — After all, invading someone couldn’t compare with the people’s passion to defend their country, especially since the war had dragged on for this long. Now that North Chang Country has made some movements, Prince Wumin decided to immediately seek a draw with East Yuan Country and deal with North Chang Country first.

Making peace required a connecting link, and that link, was Princess Changyi, who had rushed over.

Of course, since West Yang Country had spent so much military strength and resources to attack East Yuan Country, it would be impossible for them to withdraw this easily. Even if the Emperor agreed, the soldiers would be extremely dissatisfied, so East Yuan Country would have to give half of its taxes to West Yang Country. Moreover, the first time had to include offerings like gold, silver, other valuables, pigs, dogs, livestock, satin, silk, and other materials of that grade.

From now on, the two countries were to be considered allies, shall assist the other in need, and never invade the other.

This was also something I agreed on. After all, this was way better than the current East Yuan Country that was nearing its end. If even this was unacceptable, if the Emperor absolutely refuses, if the King of Xiuyi shot off his mouth and Prince Wumin's Crown Prince position was in danger, then I could just die with him...

I asked Prince Wumin this before, and he said that North Chang Country was indeed eyeing West Yang Country like a tiger, but they shouldn't be that brazen enough to directly attack yet. After all, North Chang Country and South Wen Country were mutually keeping the other in check, so they wouldn't turn around and be able to randomly come here yet.

But right now, we can't bother with that anymore. We need to take out a viable excuse — Besides, North Chang Country wasn't really that friendly either, so it would be wiped out in the future anyways.

In regards to Prince Wumin's aggressive approach, I had no objections.

After verifying that our story had no mistakes, we left the Heaven Palming Palace together. As we walked, I seriously informed him that he was not allowed to call me Yun Jiao.

Since young, people had always called me Princess, or Changyi. Aside from the vague memories of my mother calling me Yun Jiao when I was really young, and when I was studying the [Book of Songs](#), when my tutor said "a clear moonlight" while mentioning my name, I had nearly forgotten that my name was Yun Jiao.

Prince Wumin knowing my name wasn't that unexpected, but when he kept saying it so frequently, it made me feel a bit weird.

After Prince Wumin heard what I said, his face spread into a smile: "Then... Jiao'er?"

"...Just call me Yun Jiao."

Chapter 6

【6】

I was the crown prince, so I could sit on a palanquin when I'm going to the place where the Emperor was recuperating. But Prince Wumin was different, he could only walk beside the [palanquin](#).

Because he had been too lavishly dressed, the black hair on his head was barely visible and only the dazzlingly gold decorations and jewelry could be seen. When I saw it, let alone him, the person who was the one wearing it, even I felt that it was scary.

But I felt that his ability to adapt to situations was very formidable. Even I wasn't used to wearing the clothes he was wearing right now, but he didn't seem to be unaccustomed to being dressed in a girl's clothes, wearing a girl's jewelry, and even putting on make up. I can only say that he was either very flexible, or that... he had often cross dressed in secret before...

In East Yuan Country, I rarely rode the palanquin. On one hand, I didn't really use it because I didn't really like riding it. On the other hand, nobody cared if I sat on it or not. But right now as I sat in it, the pace in which we were going to the palace wasn't that quick, so it was even slower than the normal walking pace. Sitting on this wobbling palanquin, I looked at the back of Prince Wumin's dazzling gold head and only felt really bored, so my thoughts drifted away...

When we finally arrived at the Body Cleansing Palace, where the emperor resides, just as I was about to sigh in relief, I heard Prince Wumin quietly say: "My uncle has arrived as well."

I nervously sat upright and saw a paunchy middle-aged man getting off the palanquin that was about to approach. Even though he was a bit fat, the space between his eyebrows somewhat resembled Prince Wumin's. He ought to be a pretty handsome man back when he was young. I also got off the palanquin. He looked at me and made a faint [salute](#): "Crown Prince."

“King of Xiuyi.” I returned the courtesy, “You have also come in hopes of seeing my royal father?”

“Yes.” He nodded, but his eyes nevertheless veered in Prince Wumin’s direction. He probably thought that me having a woman by my side was really weird.

I pretended as if I didn’t see that and said: “Then we’ll go together.”

“Mn.” The King of Xiuyi slightly narrowed his eyes as his expression sharpened. I had no reason to feel scared, but a cry could suddenly be heard from the inside. It was followed by a sharp voice: “The emperor has perished — — !”

Haah?! I haven’t even entered, and West Yang Country’s Emperor died just like that?!

I turned my head and looked at Prince Wumin with a dumbstruck expression, and then staggered a few steps because he had pulled me in. Knowing that he probably wanted me to kowtow, I hurried inside with a small jog. On the entire way there, I heard someone unceasingly call out, “Crown Prince”, but I didn’t pay attention to that as I looked at the dragon bed and went down to kneel.

Aside from those few servants, there were two other people kneeling next to me. One was an old, white haired man dressed in an official’s garment. The other seemed to be an eunuch. But immediately after, the King of Xiuyi had also plopped down beside me and kneeled.

After kneeling, I didn’t really know what to do next. As I slightly turned my head around, I actually saw Prince Wumin enter as well. He kneeled behind me, with tears in both his eyes. The crying of a woman in makeup, even if it was my face, when I looked at it, it still scared me a bit...

But when I thought about it, I realized that even though Prince Wumin seemed to be emotionless and heartless, this Emperor that just recently died was his father... how could he possibly not feel bad.

As I thought to this, I suddenly felt an extremely painful sensation on my thigh. So painful that I started tearing immediately after, and then cried out loudly.

...So cheap, to actually use a needle to stab me...

I immediately realized that it was Prince Wumin's great work. He probably saw that I forgot to cry, so he directly jabbed me to make me remember. And his handiwork was not even a bit light at all as he directly stabbed onto my acupuncture point. It hurt so much that my tears continued to flow as I cried out loud.

The King of Xiuyi beside me was currently leaning forward on the bed and sobbing slowly, but once he saw that I was crying loudly, he suddenly looked at me, gritted his teeth, and also started to cry loudly: "Royal brother!"

.....

As expected of an uncle of the same bloodline, he's just as fake as well...

When I loudly cried "Royal father", I actually was faintly thinking about how I previously thought that Prince Wumin wept excessively because he was grieving, but how could a person who's actually grieving have the mind to pay attention to the fact that I wasn't crying? And even stab me with a needle? Even if it were a grieving person who cried, he wouldn't stop halfway and notice the things around him, and even reveal such a strange expression...

Prince Wumin, are you really not sad at all?

When my father died, I was indeed not sad, but... Prince Wumin and I are not the same.

He is the only crown prince, and I'd assume that the West Yang Emperor treated him very well, which made him end up with this weird personality, so how could he feel nothing for his own father?

While puzzling over this, I was still sobbing loudly that the old white haired elderly and eunuch came over to console me. As I randomly dealt with it, I heard Prince Wumin speak to me: "Tell them to all go out, say that you and the King of Xiuyi need a little space."

I quickly said: "You may all go out first, let my uncle and I keep my royal father company for a while..."

That white haired elder said: "Yes..." Paused, and said again: "However, before sadly passing, Crown Prince has to first listen to the imperial decree the Emperor had left before he passed away — Eunuch Cao, please."

That Eunuch Cao nodded, wiped his tears, and started reading. I wasn't really cultured enough, so when I listened, I didn't really understand it and only understood some parts of it. Something like "Each of the late emperor's were all virtuous, and We had also aspired to be that... Prince Wumin's conduct is great in all aspects. As a fine scholar and soldier, West Yang Country shall be given to him, in hopes that he will be virtuous and kind, and comfort the common people. With his appearance and bravery, We hope that he will make it all peaceful in these troubled times..."

In short, this Emperor position had undoubtedly been given to Prince Wumin. I secret snuck a glance at Prince Wumin and saw his expression relax greatly. As for the King of Xiuyi, his complexion did not look that great.

I received the decree while still crying, and the two left while bringing all the servants with them. They probably still had to notify the others that the Emperor had passed away.

At this point, only three people remained inside the large bedroom: me, Prince Wumin, and the King of Xiuyi.

The King of Xiuyi gradually turned to look at me in the midst of his sobbing: "Prince Wumin... Sigh, I can only call you Prince Wumin now, but I'll have to call you Your Majesty later on."

I didn't answer him. It's not as if he was actually thinking about that anyway.

He continued speaking: "Only... the girl beside you, who is she? The Grand Adviser and Eunuch Cao probably did not see her because of their extreme sadness, but I did... Who the exactly is she, hm?"

This King of Xiuyi was indeed too bold. Prince Wumin had just received the decree that he was to become Emperor, but he dared to ask him questions. It was clear what he meant by that. I opened my mouth, and just as I was about to answer, Prince Wumin suddenly took something out of his sleeve. Before me or the King of Xiuyi even had time to react, he used that thing and ruthlessly stabbed into the King of Xiuyi's chest.

I only felt a sweeping wind before my eyes. After looking attentively in front of me again, I saw that the King of Xiuyi had already collapsed. The cyan official's garment was gradually being stained by a red liquid, revealing a strange color... I

extended a trembling hand and felt the King of Xiuyi’s neck. He’s actually...
already dead.



Chapter 7

【7】

It was only after staring into space for a long while did I react. I shouted at Prince Wumin after seeing that he was still calm and composed: “Prince Wumin! You, you actually...”

It’s not as if I haven’t see a dead person and had never killed someone, but Prince Wumin randomly murdering his relative was the first that I’ve seen.

Prince Wumin gestured at me and calmed me down: “My royal father isn’t here anymore, so I am the Emperor now, but East Yuan Country’s alliance matter is extremely important, and definitely cannot just be decided by a newly appointed Emperor. That previous Grand Adviser has served the court for three generations. At the very least, that matter requires his approval, but he is a cunning old fox, so it is rather hard to make him agree. If my uncle had not died, it would at least require my uncle’s approval — it is now no longer so troublesome anymore. My uncle is dead — The King of Xiuyi coveted the emperor’s position and futilely attempt to murder the new emperor. The new emperor was too much in grief that he was not aware of it, but thanks to Princess Changyi, he was rescued...”

After speaking, Prince Wumin suddenly lowered his body, searched around the King of Xiuyi’s body, and seriously did find a dagger. After opening the dagger’s sheath, I saw that the dagger seemed rather sharp. Prince Wumin coldly laughed and used the dagger to gently slash his chest, then heavily slashed his own hand: “Not only that, she was also injured. Like this, the Grand Adviser would now agree.”

I stared at him shocked. There were a lot of things I wanted to say, like how did he think of all that in such a short period of time, or how could he laugh so calmly at the moment when the King of Xiuyi’s blood was obviously still on his

face... But out of all the thousands of things I wanted to say, I exchanged them for this: “Don’t mess around too much okay? That’s my hand... If you’re going to cut my hand again, I’ll cut off your private part...”

Prince Wumin silently stared at me, and then said: “You think that only you can do that? I can also cut your private part... You even have two...”

After finished speaking, he paused: “No wait, you don’t have...”

.....

After we used speech to mutually attack each other back and forth, we quickly went back to the situation at hand. I said: “What were you doing earlier, what if you didn’t succeed...”

Prince Wumin coldly laughed, put the dagger back in the King of Xiuyi’s hands, and made it look like he had taken it out himself: “If I didn’t succeed, at worst, we’ll die together.”

“...” I was really confused. If it was me who did it, I believe that nobody would be too surprised, after all like the say goes, most people go mental if they had a childhood without love. But it was unlikely that Prince Wumin had a childhood without being loved. He is the only Crown Prince, so being doted on by three thousand people would not even be close. But his merciless action now could only be said to be a development that went the opposite way because he was pushed too far...

After faking this assassination scene, Prince Wumin said: “We can now cry out in alarm.”

I nodded: “AHHH— —!”

Prince Wumin immediately also groaned feebly, and then weakly laid down. Seeing my own body like that, I wished I could just die...

The others, including that Grand Adviser and Eunuch Cao, all charged in. After seeing the chaotic scene, they stared in shock: “What happened!?”

I said: “Quickly, call the imperial physician! To protect me, Princess Changyi was stabbed by uncle... no, the King of Xiuyi!”

Afterwards, I would always remember this scene, and feel satisfied. I acted so

well, especially when I changed how I called the King of Xiuyi. It had a deep feeling of a indecisive and confused crown prince who had almost been killed by his uncle.

But when I told Prince Wumin about it later, he only sneered at me.

The servants immediately called for the imperial physician. The Grand Adviser ran over and looked at Prince Wumin who was resting on my chest, then looked at King of Xiuyi, who had stopped breathing and said with a trembling voice: “You Majesty, what happened...”

I said: “I was too sad earlier and was preoccupied in my crying that I didn’t notice the King of Xiuyi taking out a dagger to kill me! It, it seems like he wanted to forcibly seize the throne... I didn’t catch that, but luckily, Princess Changyi saw it and kept him off me by using her own dagger to stab the King of Xiuyi...”

The Grand Adviser started dumbstruck, and then sighed sadly: “I always knew that the King of Xiuyi had the intention to seize the throne for a long time, but I’d never expect that he’d do that in front of the late Emperor, and actually...”

He stopped talking, then, unexpectedly plopped in front of me and the late Emperor, and then said tearfully: “West Yang is just too unlucky...”

Even though the King of Xiuyi was unjustly accused, the Grand Adviser’s final words were nevertheless correct. With such a perverted Emperor like Prince Wumin, West Yang is just too unlucky...

After the Grand Adviser finished crying, he looked at Prince Wumin, who was in my embrace, and said: “Princess Changyi...? Are you East Yuan Country’s Princess Changyi?”

“Yes.” I nodded, “She rushed over yesterday to bring news of about North Chang Country’s intention of taking an advantage to attack our country that is currently void of military might. I am intending to call back our soldiers in East Yuan Country to return. They have already grown weary of battle and it is unsuitable for them to stay too long. I also intend to make preparations to resist North Chang Country.”

“This...” The Grand Adviser said with disbelief, “But we already attacked so many of East Yuan Country’s land, and used so much effort to do so...”

“Rest assured Grand Adviser, East Yuan Country has already agreed. If West Yang Country withdraws, even if it would still be East Yuan Country’s land, those areas would still have to give half of their taxes to West Yang Country. In addition to that, East Yuan Country would have to offer up a large amount of gold, silver, valuables, livestock, and high grade silk and fabrics as well. From hereafter, the two countries would be considered allies and assist each other mutually.”

After speaking to here, I pretended to secretly say: “What’s more, if we accept now, we could always become hostile later.”

Grand Adviser stroked his beard and said with narrowed eyes “Then... a sign of our alliance would be...?”

I looked at Prince Wumin who was still pretending to have fainted, and thought that he was dumb. His chest injury wasn’t that severe at all, he only had a deep cut on his hand and nothing more, but he actually would pretend to faint like this... Too dumb...

Fortunately, the Grand Adviser had not seen him slightly blinking his eyelashes. I took his head, which was also my head, and pressed it against my chest: “Princess Changyi is to be married to me.”

“This...” The Grand Adviser stroked his beard again. It seemed as if he would do that every time he thought about something.

After a moment of pondering, he nodded: “Alright then...”

Seeing the Grand Adviser’s approval, I couldn’t contain my joy as I nodded strongly. Suddenly, my hand was pinched. It was only then did I realize that when I pressed Prince Wumin’s head, which was also my head, against my chest, I probably pressed it too forcefully. He looked as if he couldn’t breathe... Thus, I hurriedly released him, and let him gasp for breath while I said to the Grand Adviser: “Royal father’s demise would also sadden the entire country. I ought to mourn for three months but too much has happened, so I would have to mourn for seven days first, then go with Princess Changyi to East Yuan Country. On one hand, that boost West Yang Country soldier’s morale, and also let me meet with East Yuan Country’s royal family.

The Grand Adviser said: “Might as well.”

This line was actually something I thought up myself, and was something that I didn't talk to Prince Wumin about, so I was pretty nervous. The Grand Adviser's easy response delighted me but it seems like the person on my chest didn't seem too happy as he fiercely pinched me on my waist and then continued to be unconscious again.

Later on, the imperial physicians came over and all the other members of the royal family had also all arrived. I discovered something shocking, which was that Prince Wumin unexpectedly didn't have any brothers. He had around ten sisters, and each and every one of them were beautiful. They all resembled flowers in a set. Some were already in full bloom and some were only budding. No matter the shape or size, they were all breathtaking.

But no matter how you compared them, Prince Wumin was this set's most beautiful supporting actor — — If the others were all beautiful supporting actresses, and he was a beautiful supporting actor, then why wouldn't he be this handsome?

Chapter 8

【8】

There were over ten princesses, but I could not recognize any of them, so I simply cried loudly for a few seconds and then pretended to faint.

With my eyes closed, I sensed that someone had lifted me up on the bed and then massaged me for a while. Then, the imperial physician left and the others tended me. I opened my eyes slightly when I laid down, but after realizing whose body I was in, I got up again. The important people had already left to handle the Emperor's funeral matters, and only a few servants stood guard beside me. When I asked where Prince Wumin was, I unexpectedly found out that he was in a small lodge next to my Heaven Palming Palace. Thus, I got up and went to look for him.

When I got to the lodge, there were still three or four imperial physicians busy at work. When they saw me, they saluted me one after the other.

Even though I was previously a princess, everyone was cold and indifferent towards me. I didn't really care about etiquette either, so in the end, when people saw me, they never made the proper courtesy. After becoming Prince Wumin, everyone would reveal an apprehensive expression and salute me one after the other if they see me. I could only say that there are more than a hundred different kinds of the same rice...

"How is Princess Changyi's condition?" I asked seriously.

One of the imperial physicians among them replied while trembling: "Reporting to Your Majesty, there isn't any real harm on Princess Changyi's body. She ought to have fainted she had seen herself lose so much blood. She'll be fine once we open some blood enriching medicine for her.

I nodded: "Have you guys finished? Then, you are dismissed."

The few imperial physicians all withdrew in succession with their heads lowered. I sat beside his bed for a long while. After confirming that there were no others present, I pushed him: “Stop pretending to be dead, get up already.”

Prince Wumin slowly opened his eyes and said “You can just keep pushing.”

“I cannot bear to.” I honestly replied.

Prince Wumin laughed and slowly crawled up, as if moving was somewhat difficult. He said: “Stop staying here, hurry up and go to my royal father’s chambers. Now is the best time for you to show filial piety.”

I said with difficulty: “But I don’t know a single person there.”

Prince Wumin sighed: “Then I’ll go with you.”

“If you move randomly, the wound would open. I’m a girl, so it’s not appropriate for me to have scars.” I countered.

Prince Wumin said disdainfully: “You have so many injuries on your body, why does it matter if there’s one more...”

Before he finished his sentence, he immediately shut his mouth. It was clear that he realized how stupid he was for saying that...

I went crazy: “You peeked at my body?! ”

Prince Wumin silently shrunk backwards: “No, errr, accidentally saw it... when the imperial physicians were putting medicine on it...”

I sat beside the bed and choked out: “Stop hiding, it’s not like I’ll hit you.”

“That’s true...” Prince Wumin laughed, and then scandalously offered, “Then how about this, if you don’t feel happy, you can look at my body all you want.”

I said slowly: “If that day actually comes, even if I wanted revenge, I wouldn’t do that.”

“Oh?” Engrossed, he raised his eyebrows, “Then what would you do?”

I looked at him and said with a soft voice: “I’ll go look for a man to keep me company and do a few things that are hard to speak about...”

“.....”

As per my instructions, Prince Wumin continued to take care of my body, and I returned to the Heaven Palming Palace. Currently sticky with blood, it seriously did indeed make one feel uncomfortable.

I called for the palace maids to prepare hot water. I even did it in a way that looked as if I was still grieving. A few palace maids quickly readied everything and this time, I didn't ask anyone to wait upon me. I only soaked calmly in the basin without doing anything aside from soaking.

But as I continued to soak like this, I kept having the thought of looking. How exactly does Prince Wumin's body look?

Err, I wasn't as vulgar as Prince Wumin, and have no interest in anything down there, but... looking at his back isn't too much, right?

There was a huge copper mirror in Prince Wumin's room and what it reflected was exceptionally clear. I decided to do it and casually wiped my body — With closed eyes obviously. I also casually wiped a few other body parts and then put on a loose robe. I was still a bit damp when I ran in front of the mirror with my back to it. I slowly untied the robe and turned around to look.

Just one look startled me greatly. Prince Wumin's back was indeed good looking and it was probably because he practiced martial arts. Saying that he didn't have any excessive fat was not the least bit exaggerated. His form was pretty good, but...

Why are there so many frightening lines of scars on such a beautiful back?

Those scars couldn't be said to be newly made, but they were nevertheless extremely distinct. They were a ghastly sight, and they went to show just how deep his original wounds were.

Because I was really curious when I was young, I had secretly went to the prison cells to watch people get tortured, so I knew there was this was a kind of whipping punishment. When hit the first time, even though the receiving party would feel pain, it wasn't really that painful, and the scars wouldn't be that deep either. But if a wooden stick were to be used the first time, and then the skin were to be moistened by water, it would become soft, and then were whipped

with rattan on the very same spot. After that, they would use a scorching hot iron rod that had turned red to touch it again. Then... In short, they would continuously go on and on again until you could see the white bones under that spot. Only then would they change places.

And this kind of punishment was named the “Bone Revealing Whipping”.

With this, even the most toughest of men made of steel would not be able to take it and surrender.

This kind of perverted punishment was said to have been devised by a woman named Liu Shan. At that time, she was only in her tens, yet had thought up of many punishments that she had even personally carried out, so much that there were many proud and ruthless officials prevalent. Only until she vanished without a trace and withdrew deep into South Wen Country did this harmful practice slowly get suppressed.

Towards this, I felt completely speechless. Such a merciless person had unexpectedly been named Liu Shan...

(TL: Liu Shan means retaining benevolence)

But this wasn't the main point. The main point was that... wasn't Prince Wumin the crown prince? Why would there be so many kinds of these scars on his body?

I was frightened to the point where even my hands were slightly trembling. Absent-mindedly, I put the robe back on and then covered it with an outer robe.

Due to this matter, my mind became extremely unstable. I couldn't help but look left and right in front of the mirror. I then discovered that there was a deep scar underneath Prince Wumin's left ear. According to the many forms of torture I know, I'd reckon that this sort of torture was also one thought up of by Liu Shan, call something like “Shearing Ears”... But it still didn't seem to be the same. After all, Shearing Ears was too bloody and would remove the entire ear, but it was only Prince Wumin's earlobe that had a injuring scar mark. Unless it was someone who was trying to do that to him, and had stopped in the middle...

What exactly had Prince Wumin been through?

My heart hopped in fear as my footsteps floated outside the door. I wanted to

find Prince Wumin and ask to clearly know the facts, but I was a bit worried that it would tug upon a serious event in his past, so much that he would go mad in rage...

Like this, if I don't talk, I didn't need to pretend. When the servants saw me, their eyes revealed an extreme anxiousness, so much that it was almost shock.

Trembling all over, I walked into Prince Wumin's lodge and dismissed the others. As I slowly approached him, I actually saw that his eyes were closed. He was actually already asleep. Moreover, the corner of his mouth was raised, as if he was in a good mood...

This, this person's father had just died not too long ago...

This made me unable to say that he was weird this time. His past was definitely not as simple as I had thought it was. His personality to have become like this, could now be passable. When I was young, no matter how unfavored I was, apart from flesh wounds caused by practicing martial arts, I definitely had no others injuries, let alone suffer through any torture.

Chapter 9

【9】

I sighed. I should just not bother Prince Wumin's rest. I turned around and left the lodge. Right when I left the lodge, I just happened to see the Grand Adviser come over. Seeing that I had just come out from Prince Wumin's lodge, he stared blankly, and then asked: "How is Princess Changyi's condition?"

"She's currently resting, it's nothing serious." I said.

The Grand Adviser nodded: "Your Majesty, you have to prepare for the late Emperor's funeral and your ascension to the throne."

"Oh...." I thought about the chattering princesses and had an awful headache. As I followed the Grand Adviser there, I steadied my face and pretended to be depressed. Prince Wumin's temper is weird anyway, so if they see that I don't look so good, they wouldn't dare to bother me.

Of course, there was always an exception.

Before I even had time to react, a person flew in front of me, seized my shoulders, and violently shook me: "Big Brother Qing! How could you do this?! Why did you kill my father, why?!"

I was rocked into my head spun, and knew that the girl in front of me who was shouting herself hoarse was Princess Shengan. Her tears danced, and her face was like a steam bun that had been stepped on for who knows how many times, which then was thrown in the water, and soaked for a very long time. Her hands grabbed onto me with a strange strength, and didn't let me go.

I stuttered: "Shengan, calm down, calm down..."

Princess Shengan held on even tighter while bawling: "How do you expect me to be calm?! Why did you let that woman kill my father?!"

My headache became even more fierce. Even though I felt that she really was pitiful, I still threw off her hand: “Shengan, don’t make trouble without reason. It is the King of Xiuyi’s heart was unlawful, which ended up in Princess Changyi rescuing me...”

Princess Shengan wept so hard that she was trembling all over. She slowly released her hand, retreated a few steps back, and said: “That’s impossible, Father definitely said that he won’t harm you because of me. He would assist your rule...”

“Err,” I was a bit stumped, then I consoled her, “This means that, whatever a man says is not always trustworthy, this includes your father...”

Once I said that, it seems as if the atmosphere had immediately gone cold. Shengan looked at me with wide eyes, then wildly fled while crying.

Secretly breathing a sigh of relief, I coughed and said: “Let’s first go to see our royal father...”

After the other princesses saw the unforeseen event just a moment ago, they all were quiet out of fear. Seeing that I said that, they all immediately nodded and then smoothly continued on the journey, past the mishap.

Even if it went on without a hitch, the royal family’s courtesies and etiquette were too complicated, too many, and too confusing. There were all kinds being practiced, and by the time we had temporarily settled the late Emperor into a coffin, it was already very deep into the night. But I still could not leave yet. There needs to be one person who had to quietly sit and meditate for a whole night in the assembly hall so that the late Emperor could rest in peace — with the late Emperor’s coffin on the side.

I was relatively scared of ghosts, spirits, and those kinds of things, so when I found out that I had to do that, I was really shocked. When my royal father died, due to the internal and external turmoil, the ceremony was quite simple, and the crown prince only had to stand guard for a few hours before coming out. I totally did not expect... that I had to spend the night!

Thus, I took advantage of the evening dinner time to tell Prince Wumin about this, tactfully expressing my wish of needing someone to keep me company.

When Prince Wumin heard that, he said faintly: “My royal father is keeping you company.”

“...Fooey!” I glared at him, “In short, you have to keep me company. If you don’t agree, I’ll go find a man...”

“ ... ”

In the end, Prince Wumin compromised, and also stealthily entered the assembly hall not long after I did. We sat crossed-legged, face to face — according to the customs, we should be kneeling, but neither Prince Wumin nor I had any intention of kneeling.

Just like this, I idly spoke about Princess Shengan’s matter. When he heard it, he indifferently said: “It doesn’t matter, she’s going to become a commoner later on, so there’s no need to see her.”

“You’re going to demote her into a commoner?” I was a bit shocked.

Prince Wumin glanced at me, and unexpectedly looked at me with a puzzled expression: “Then what, leave her at your side at all times and let her cry until she actually does something?”

“You’re right.” I said helplessly.

Prince Wumin said: “At that time, I originally planned...”

Before he had finished speaking, he immediately shut his mouth.

However, I was well aware of his intention: “You also planned to kill her, right?”

Prince Wumin laughed at me, and the candlelight from the white candle on the side flickered and swayed, casting a monstrous overcast expression on his face. Even if it was my face, looking at it now, it would still make one feel the terror of something sinister.

“No, I planed to eliminate the King of Xiuyi’s entire clan through nine generations.”

“ ... ”

“But at the moment, North Chang Country is watching us as if we are prey, yet

we're going to East Yuan Country, and are even going to personally go there to boost the soldier's morale..." He counted with his fingers, "if you end up with a tyrant's reputation, then that's not too good."

I was a bit dumbfounded and felt an indescribable chill course through my body as I said: "Err, Prince Wumin, I want to tell you something."

"Mn?" He withdrew his weird expression and looked at me without any signs of scheming.

I said: "In the future, for these kinds of matters, just keep it in your heart, don't tell me these..."

He raised his brows: "Why?"

"The more I know, the more dangerous it is..." I replied honestly, "I would rather not know anything..."

Prince Wumin laughed: "You already know too much, there's no point in worrying about it if you already know so much already, what are you scared of?"

"..."

I was really scared, really...

Seeing that his mood was still good even though his father's coffin was right next to him.... I couldn't help but say: "Since that's the case, I have something to ask you."

Prince Wumin nodded: "What?"

I said: "Actually, I, er, also looked at your body."

Prince Wumin laughed weirdly: "I knew you couldn't bear the temptation, no problem, I won't blame you."

"..." I blushed and said, "No, no... I only looked at your back. The scar on your back, how did they happen?"

Prince Wumin actually replied as if he didn't care about it: "Oh, I was a naughty child."

"How is that possible," He was clearly being contemptuous about my ability to think. I said: "The scars on your back are from the 'Bone Revealing Whipping',

and the scars on her ears are a result of 'Shearing Ears', even I know those stuff! In fact, who knows what else happened to your body..."

Prince Wumin narrowed his eyes: "You're a princess, so how could you know this?"

"I was a naughty child..." I answered as I shrunk.

"..."

Prince Wumin and I just sat there like that. He didn't speak, and I didn't dare to speak. It was a long while until he slowly answered: "It's best if you don't ask. If you know about it, then you will really need die."

I nodded in pleasant surprise: "Looks like you don't want to kill me at the moment."

Prince Wumin laughed warmly: "Mn, I only want to eliminate you."

"...is there a difference?"

"A literal difference." He lazily answered, then leaned back on the pillar behind him.

"..."

I wanted to cry but had no tears: "Don't be too arrogant, I'll go find a man now..."

Prince Wumin opened his eyes: "I don't even need to find one, there's a man in front of me."

"..."

How did I forget, women were always the one at a disadvantage. Prince Wumin used my body to hop over to where I was. Then I'll...

Seeing my aggravated expression, Prince Wumin started laughing: "Rest assured, I have no interest in making love to my own body."

Chapter 10

【10】

After enduring until the later half of the night, I also could not resist anymore as I leaned on a pillar and began to fall asleep. Prince Wumin probably had already slept for more than half the day, so he wasn't sleepy. He only instructed: "You sleep first. When it's time, I'll be leaving and will wake you up. You must be kneeling when you do, or else it wouldn't look like you were doing it."

I nodded: "Okay."

I actually slept really peacefully this time, probably because I felt that Prince Wumin could ward off evil spirits, so I was especially at ease. When he woke me up, I slightly opened my eyes, but it was still dark out.

"How long did I sleep for?" I rub my eyes with a bit of dissatisfaction.

"Not even four hours." Prince Wumin said, "I need to go now, you should go kneel now."

I nodded: "Okay."

He sneakily went out over the window without making the smallest of sound. This scene reminded me of the previous me who had infiltrated the West Yang imperial palace, it was the same...

I sat on the ground for most of the night, so my legs were a bit numb. I knelt until the Grand Adviser and them came to get me, and I indeed was unable to stand. When they saw me like that, I'd reckon that they really believed that I had kneeled for the entire night. They were all moved to tears and said that I was very loyal.

Even though the Emperor's [official inner and outer coffins](#) were quickly being made overnight, they were still not done yet, so the Grand Adviser and them told me to go rest first. This was exactly my intention. I returned to the Heaven Palming Palace and soaked in the basin for a while, and then called for some

palace maids to help me hammer my leg. Slowly after that, the soreness and ache in my leg gradually faded. Prince Wumin had also come over and quietly sat to the side while watching me. He didn't say a single thing.

After everyone had left, before I even had time to say something to Prince Wumin, the Grand Adviser and them came back, saying that I had to go look at the funeral items that would be buried with the emperor. I brought Prince Wumin along with me to do so, and it took until the event to almost finish the preparations. The official inner and outer coffins were also finished, so I had to change into the Emperor's distinctive funeral clothes and sat in a palanquin going towards the Emperor's tomb with a large stack of funeral items and [stone figures](#).

After a bunch of messes later, my head felt like it was going to split open, but it ended up to be quite relaxing for Prince Wumin. When I returned to the Heaven Palming Palace, he wasn't in that little room, rather, he was sitting quite comfortably in the Heaven Palming Palace's first wife's large bed while contently cracking melon seeds between his teeth.

I seriously couldn't vent out my anger. Not caring that he was on the bed, I threw myself directly on the bed and said: "You're looking quite comfortable..."

Prince Wumin shot me a smile: "I am indeed comfortable."

I glared at him: "Don't think that I don't hit women!"

Prince Wumin moved his face over: "Hit me then."

I looked at my own face and was unable to do it. Barely suppressing the fire in my heart and not able to restrain it any longer, I could only bury my head into the blanket to cool down.

Prince Wumin laughed: "If one saw the prince of a country throw such a childish tantrum, wouldn't it cause them laugh their head off?"

After speaking, he used his hand to pick up a melon seed kernel and put it near my mouth: "Eat it."

I looked at him with suspicion: "You shouldn't have poisoned this, right?"

He laughed weirdly, and then tossed the melon seed kernel in his mouth. He

said while chewing on the side: “I can’t bear to poison my own body to death, just like how you can’t bear to hit your own body.”

I said: “That may not be the case, what if you suddenly go crazy?”

Prince Wumin yawned: “Did you finish everything?”

“Mn.” I nodded, “Today is the first day, tomorrow is the official ascension.”

Prince Wumin said: “The first thing you should do after ascending the throne is to demote the King of Xiuyi’s entire family into commoners.”

“Mn.” I understood what it meant to establish one’s authority.

Prince Wumin glanced at me: “Then let’s sleep.”

“...Ah?” It took me a while to react, “Together?”

Prince Wumin yawned again: “It’s not like we have those kinds of intentions with each other.”

“That’s true, but it wouldn’t look too good.”

Prince Wumin was difficult: “Then that’s not my problem. I’m not used to the bed in the little lodge outside, it’s too hard.”

I expressed my understanding: “Then I’ll tell some servants to help you add an additional ten blankets.”

“That’s just too hot.”

“...”

“Besides, it’s also too small, too narrow, and too low...” He chattered on and on as he fussed until I helplessly lifted the blanket: “Just sleep, stop talking...”

Prince Wumin laughed with contentment and then laid down. As I looked at my own face, I discovered that I wasn’t really uncomfortable with it... humanity’s ability to adapt is truly a bit frightening.

Because I had been really tired these past days, I quickly fell asleep. Because nobody was going to call me up early on the second day, I had a comfortable sleep. When I woke up, the sky was already bright. Right when I was about to get up, something felt a bit wrong...

Prince Wumin had already woken up, and was sitting next to the bed, looking at who knows what. Seeing that I was awake, he asked: “You’re awake?”

I glared at him: “Pervert...”

Prince Wumin had on an unfathomable expression: “Why are you calling me names out of nowhere... If we were to say who the pervert is between us, you would be the pervert...”

I bit my lips: “Your body...”

Seeing that I was so stiff, Prince Wumin got it, and coughed: “Err, that, normal healthy men would usually wake up with that reaction, err, you...”

I looked at him with a plaintive expression: “Do you have any good ideas yet, it’s really uncomfortable...”

Prince Wumin said hesitantly: “I usually call for a palace maid...”

“I don’t want to!” I shook my head as if my life depended on it.

“Or, use your right hand...”

I seriously wanted to cry now: “Isn’t there a third option? I’ll definitely do it!”

“Then, use your left hand...” He said somewhat hesitantly.

“.....”

Prince Wumin said helplessly: “Then just leave it like that, it’ll get better over time. If you really can’t take it, take a cold water bath.”

“It’s the cold season, alright...” I laid down on the bed, “I’ll just leave it...”

Prince Wumin nodded his head: “Now do you know the pains of being a man?”

I was a bit angry: “You men are exactly as unbearable as this...”

Prince Wumin said with a “tch”: “You saying that is just not fair. When you women become emotional, there isn’t even a hint of warning before that.”

“...” I lifted the blanket and used it to cover my head, “I don’t want to talk to you anymore!”

Prince Wumin laughed softly and then didn’t speak anymore

After a while, I felt that the place down there didn’t really cool down much, so

I exposed my head and looked at Prince Wumin: “Prince Wumin, I thought up of a permanent surefire method.”

The corner of Prince Wumin’s mouth slightly curled up: “You don’t need to tell me, I feel like I won’t consent...”

“We’ll simply make it so that it can’t do anything anymore, then when we switch back, we’ll...” I ignored him and just said it aloud.

Prince Wumin coldly laughed and pointed at himself, which was also my body’s chest, then pointed at me, which was also the lower part of his body, and said: “A total of three heads, you have two and I have one. They’ll stand and fall together, do what you like!”

I stared blankly for a long while. Only until I felt the heat in my lower body rush to my face did I shriek and shove him away: “Stinkin’ pervert, get lost!!!”

Prince Wumin bursted into loud laughter and said quite meaningfully: “Let’s just get along, shall we? Hahahaha...”

“ ...”

I’m definitely going to find a man!

Chapter 11

【11】

The following days after, I was busy to the point of collapsing.

I used to never be involved in governmental affairs, and now they all suddenly rushed at me. Luckily, I could always manage to take Prince Wumin with me. He's rather of use, unfortunately, in the matters related to the ceremony, I'd have to go into battle myself. This inevitably became an extreme headache for me. With great difficulty, the ascension ceremony passed by and the day of when we journey to East Yuan Country neared.

The past three days that Prince Wumin and I were separated, were exactly the time the King of Xiuyi's entire family was demoted to a commoner status. With the drizzling of the autumn rain, the entire West Yang Palace was filled with fog. I opened an umbrella and thought about all the different kinds of issues that would happen once I returned to East Yuan Country. I didn't know what method Princess Shengan used, but she came over in a palanquin, and faintly courtesied at my side: "Your Majesty."

The hand I used to hold the umbrella immediately became somewhat unsteady after seeing her delicate frame holding onto an umbrella in the light drizzle. She was without makeup with her hair down, and was attired in a plain white robe, making her seem as if she blended in with the deep mist behind her.

She was a bit different from how she was before. Her face displayed a tranquil solemnness that I had never seen before. I suppose that she no longer felt anything for Prince Wumin. As a fellow woman, seeing her get betrayed by her lover and be orphaned, to then be reduced to a commoner from a princess, I felt somewhat helpless. Thus, I said: "You may rise."

Only when Princess Shengan slowly lifted her head did I discover that there was a white colored flower bud above her ear. This was a bit odd because people usually wore flowers, not flower buds.

Princess Shengan laughed lightly when she saw me stare at the flower bud: “Your Majesty, in this late autumn season, which is not the season for flowers to bud, this flower bud that cannot distinguish between truth and lies foolishly tried to open to become a flower. But with the current environment, how could it possibly survive? So your lowly servant could not bear it and simply plucked it.”

She was talking about the flower bud, but why do I feel that she was actually talking about herself? But currently, I was unable to comfort her. Moreover, her current appearance and tone of voice was oddly strange, making me seriously think that she was possessed... So I could only reluctantly say: “Shengan, you actually think this much...”

Princess Shengan paused for a bit, and then said: “This servant is not called Shengan anymore. That is a title bestowed upon me by the late Emperor. I am now a commoner... If Your Majesty wishes to, I’d like it if you call me You’er again.”

“...” Since this was her last request, there was no reason why I shouldn’t fulfill it. I cleared my throat, and said, “You’er...”

Princess Shengan laughed, and said: “Thank you, Your Majesty.”

“...”

After she saluted me, she took out a cloth, and unfolded. Inside were the needles Prince Wumin and I accidentally stuck on her head that day...

Err, don’t tell me that Princess Shengan was going to settle the score now?

I went a bit more on guard while looking at her, but she actually only laughed a little, and slowly gave me the cloth: “Your Majesty, needles are a sign of broken bonds, it looks like you have already shown how you felt that day...”

“...” Looks like I thought too much...

She continued: “It’s best if this servant returns the needles back to Your Majesty. I hope that Your Majesty would not blame this servant’s past rudeness...”

I pondered as I accepted the cloth and handed over the oiled paper umbrella to her: “You use it.”

Her palanquin was still outside, and there was quite a distance from here to the outside. She was already soaked from head to toe, so the umbrella wasn't really of any help. It was just that me giving it to her, could also be considered a way to comfort her.

Princess Shengan stared blankly, laughed, and accepted the oiled paper umbrella: "Thank you Your Majesty."

I nodded.

"This servant... shall take her leave."

I nodded again.

Princess Shengan lifted the green umbrella and slowly walked towards the outside. As her figure grew increasingly indistinct in the curtain of rain, the gold shine on top of the cloth in my hands was particularly uncomfortable to my eyes. I couldn't help but raise my voice towards Princess Shengan's silhouette: "Err, actually, the gold in these golden needles are all real. You could keep it, and use it if you don't have any more money..."

Princess Shengan stumbled, and stiffly turned around: "I thank Your Majesty for your beautiful intentions, but no need..."

I said awkwardly: "Mm, go then."

Princess Shengan slowly left once again with a graceful posture. I sighed and stared blankly at the cloth.

I wasn't sure how much time had past until the faint sound of a girl suddenly came from behind me: "What, you hate me that much that you'll make me get wet in the rain."

I turned around, and actually saw Prince Wumin. He was holding a green umbrella and used a bit of effort to lift it to cover me. I hurriedly took the umbrella and said: "No, I just saw Princess Shengan earlier. She was wearing a white funeral robe with a white flower bud over her ear, and used a flower analogy to say something..."

Before I even had the time to express to him my shock regarding Princess Shengan's huge transformation, Prince Wumin narrowed his eyes and threw the

cloth in my hand on the ground.

“What are you doing?” I stared blankly.

“Shengan gave you that?” He looked at the golden needles in the cloth,
“Probably poisoned.”

Shocked, I said: “No way...”

Prince Wumin glanced at me with indifference, bent over, and used his sleeve to grasp a needle to poke at a nearby flower stem. The surface of the stem quickly withered, and the scattered on the soil. The one in front was proudly in bloom, the one behind it, was like a withered leaf. The two contrasts were exceptionally sad.

“...” I didn’t know what to say for a moment and Prince Wumin lifted the cloth while sighing: “This is ‘Extreme Benevolence’, and nothing can be done about it. If we throw it again, it could harm others. Burying it in the ground would make it infertile, if you burn it, the ones who smell it would die...”

I was speechless: “It’s that toxic?”

Prince Wumin said: “Mn, a famous doctor studied it a long time ago, it has no antidote.”

“It’s this poisonous, yet it’s called ‘Extreme Benevolence’...” I shook my head, and couldn’t help but think about that Extreme Benevolence.

Prince Wumin pursed his lips and said: “That doctor’s name is Chang Yuji, and has encountered the ruthless Extreme Benevolence in the past. This poison is to commemorate the feelings between two people. He took the one word from two of his dead friends to name it.”

...It actually was related to an extreme benevolence!

I said dumbfoundedly: “I have an idea as to where to toss it.”

“Eh? Where?”

“Manure pit.”

“...”

“Good idea.” Prince Wumin’s shoulder slightly shook as he gave me the cloth,

“Tell the servants to throw it into the manure pit. Take care to not touch it.”

I nodded, yet I couldn't help but ask: “You're... just going to let Shengan go?”

Prince Wumin said indifferently: “Even though Shengan is impulsive, she isn't that stupid. Since she did it this in such an obvious way, there must be a deep meaning behind it. She still has not walked too far — go tell the imperial bodyguards to call her back.”

I said hesitantly: “What?”

Prince Wumin whispered a few words beside my ears. I was continuously shocked by the content and deep meaning within his words, but seeing Prince Wumin's calm expression, I could only go and dispatch servants to look for Shengan. Prince Wumin laughed, grabbed at the umbrella, and slowly walked towards a corner. A few blinks later, he disappeared without a trace.

It indeed played out to Prince Wumin's expectations. Not long after, Shengan returned. It seemed as though she was walking at an extremely slow pace, waiting for me to call her back.

She held the umbrella up as she walked, with footsteps not as calm as it was previously. Her face was also filled with suffering, as if she wasn't walking towards me, but rather to her execution ground.

And to me, Prince Wumin was indeed Princess Shengan's execution ground.

Princess Shengan walked to my front, and gently saluted: “Your Majesty.”

I nodded: “The reason why I called you here is because I suddenly thought of something.”

“Mn.”

She barely gave a reply. I'm assuming that she's waiting for me to give her some kind of unpardonable criminal charge, but I simply pursed my lips and turned around to pluck a white flower deep in rime. Then, I took the flower bud from Princess Shengan's ear and replaced it with the blossoming flower.